# The Corporation of The City of London
# April 4, 2008

## Lead Levels Reduced by 40 to 50 Per Cent

Changes to the chemistry of London's water have significantly reduced lead levels in houses that still have lead water services. Test results to be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment by April 15th show that lead concentrations in these older homes have been reduced by as much as 40 to 50 per cent over 2007 levels.

"We're very pleased to see this improvement in lead concentration levels as a result of the adjustments to the pH level", said Pat McNally, Acting General Manager of Environmental & Engineering Services & City Engineer. "The City of London has really been out ahead of many other municipalities in its testing program, public education campaigns and its efforts to mitigate lead levels at customers' taps, while at the same time ensuring excellent water quality.

While the Ministry of the Environment only recently required all municipalities to test and evaluate the need for a corrosion control plan, the City of London has been developing and implementing such a program as part of its three-pronged strategy in place since early 2007 to address the lead issues. The other components include ongoing education and awareness to educate homeowners and to provide information about replacing the pipes; and the lead pipe replacement program, which has been accelerated to ensure that all lead services are replaced by 2025. London City Council approved an additional one per cent increase in water rates in its 2008 budget to fund additional lead service replacements. Since the 2006 budget, replacement of these older services has increased by about 500 per cent.

Out of about 100,000 residences in London, approximately 9,000 still have lead services. The City also introduced a new loan program in the fall of 2007 to assist homeowners so that they can have the cost of pipe replacements added to their property tax bill and paid back over ten years. Work continues to ensure that water in all residences meet or exceed the provincial standard for lead levels.

As shown in the City's most recent compliance report on over 140 drinking water parameters, the City of London's drinking water system continues to meet or exceed Ontario Ministry of the Environment standards.